

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 EA-10 FRB-03
IO-13 NEA-10 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 /163 W
-----004702 240610Z /10

R 232024Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5090
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
DOE WASHDC

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USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EEC
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER MEETING WITH OIL
COMPANIES OPERATING IN EUROPE

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2493, (B) BRUSSELS 2004

1. GEORGES BRONDEL, DIRECTOR FOR OIL AND GAS OF THE
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY (DG-XVII) INFORMED A
MISSION OFFICER THAT MOST OIL COMPANIES, INCLUDING
CHEVRON, MOBIL AND EXXON, HAVE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO
EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER'S INVITATION TO ATTEND A JOINT
MEETING WITH HIM ON MARCH 10. BRONDEL NOTED, HOWEVER,
THAT TEXACO HAD SENT WORD TO HIM AND BRUNNER'S CABINET
THAT TEXACO WOULD NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF AMERICAN ANTI-
TRUST CONSIDERATIONS. BRONDEL FELT THIS WAS MOST
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UNFORTUNATE AND ASKED WHETHER TEXACO HAD BEEN SO ADVISED
BY THE USG. THE MISSION OFFICER RESPONDED THAT TEXACO
HAD NOT SOUGHT OUR ADVICE AND THAT WE WERE UNAWARE IF
ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USG HAD ADVISED TEXACO
ON THIS MATTER. BRONDEL ASKED THE MISSION TO INFORM
WASHINGTON OF THE RESPONSES BY TEXACO AND OTHER US OIL
COMPANIES, AND HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD DO WHATEVER IT

COULD TO FACILITATE ATTENDANCE BY ALL COMPANIES CONCERNED. HE FELT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF ALL OR MOST COMPANIES OPERATING IN EUROPE WERE PRESENT EXCEPT FOR ONE OF THE AMERICAN MAJORS, PARTICULARLY SINCE ATTENDANCE COMMITS NO ONE TO ANYTHING MORE THAN LISTENING TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS.

2. BRONDEL AND HIS DEPUTY FOR REFINERY OPERATIONS, HENDRIK TENT, TOLD THE MISSION THAT THE COMPANIES WHO HAVE AGREED TO ATTEND THE MARCH 10 MEETING HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THEIR PRESENCE DID NOT RAISE ANTI-TRUST IMPLICATIONS PER SE, BECAUSE THE MEETING WAS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION AND WAS INTENDED TO PERMIT THE COMPANIES TO GIVE THEIR REACTIONS TO THE COMMISSION'S REFINERY PROPOSALS. THEY WOULD BE FREE TO RAISE ANY ANTI-TRUST PROBLEMS WHICH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS COULD CREATE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND IN RESPECT TO US ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION. TENT STATED THAT DG-XVII HAS RECEIVED WRITTEN APPROVAL REGARDING THE MEETING FROM THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMPETITION (DG-IV). THE PROPOSALS WERE APPROVED BY THE EC COMMISSION ON FEB. 22 IN SOMEWHAT MODIFIED FORM FROM THAT REPORTED REF. B.

3. COMMENT: AS REQUESTED REF A, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSED MEETING AND ANY GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH THE COMMISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND POSSIBLY WITH US OIL COMPANIES. HINTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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